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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 17 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 16 January 2012, in reaction to planned military exercises by Russia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry in reaction to planned military exercises by Russia

During a meeting with foreign military attachés held in December 2011, the Chief of the Russian Federation's General Staff, General Nikolai Makarov, announced Russia's plans to hold a series of strategic military exercises ("Kavkaz-2012") in September 2012. According to sources within the Russian Ministry of Defence, these exercises will — unlike previous ones — "cover not only the territory of Russia's southern military district, but will also extend to Armenia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia".

Besides forces under the authority of Russia's Ministry of Defence, these exercises will also involve troops belonging to the country's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Security Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Federal Protection Service and other law enforcement agencies. The planned exercises also call for the use of all manner of surveillance and communication equipment (including electronic and satellite-based equipment), unmanned aerial vehicles and high-precision weapons.

Russia is deliberately building up its military forces, strengthening its military infrastructure and deploying offensive weapons in Georgia's occupied territories. In doing so, the Russian Government is seeking to instigate a permanent state of tension in Georgia and in the Black Sea region as a whole. The international community should pay due attention to the fact that Russia's foreign policy has undergone no change: the Russian Government continues to adopt aggressive practices, including the demonstration of military force and provocations.

Russia represents a source of destabilization and negative developments in the international arena.